

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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71

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P 152029Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO CNO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3036

USCINCSO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 2280

EXDIS

PERSONAL FOR CNO ADMIRAL ZUMWALT FROM AMBASSADOR MCCLINTOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: DUNCAN (MURDERED BY MACBETH)

REF: CNO MESSAGE 081917Z MAR 74

1. REFTEL REQUESTS CONCURRENCE OF USCINCSO AND MYSELF  
OF PROPOSED SALE TO VENEZUELAN NAVY OF DD 874, THE  
USS DUNCAN.

2. I FEAR CONDITIONS IMPOSED ON THIS SUGGESTED TRANSFER WILL  
APPEAR VEXATIOUS IN EYES OF VENEZUELAN CNO AND NEW INSPECTOR  
GENERAL OF ARMED FORCES ADMIRAL SEIJAS. FOR EXAMPLE,  
NOT ONLY IS THE PRICE OF \$102,000 SOMEWHAT HIGH FOR A VESSEL  
WHICH CAN ONLY BE BROUGHT TO VENEZUELA BY A LONG AND  
EXPENSIVE TOW BUT THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE SHIP BE  
INSPECTED WITHIN THE NEXT TEN DAYS SEEMS PEREMPTORY  
TO ME. IN ADDITION TO THESE UNFAVORABLE ASPECTS OF OUR  
OFFER, THE STATEMENT THAT "ADDITIONALLY THE VENEZUELAN  
NAVY WOULD  
BE REQUIRED TO DISPOSE OF RESIDUE HULL WITHIN  
ONE YEAR OF ARRIVAL IN THE RECIPIENT COUNTRY" WILL BE  
INTERPRETED BY THE SENSITIVE VENEZUELAN AS A FORM OF  
ULTIMATUM.

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3. I SHOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LET DIPLOMACY WORK ON THIS LITTLE PROBLEM. I SEE NO DIFFICULTY IN HAVING ADMIRALS SEIJAS AND PEREZ LEEFMANS OVER TO THE HOUSE TO SAY THAT WE DO INDEED HAVE AN OLD DESTROYER AVAILABLE AND THAT IF THEIR NAVAL ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON COULD FLY OUT TO SAN DIEGO TO LOOK AT IT, IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA. I THINK I COULD PROVIDE THE TWO ADMIRALS WITH DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR AN OFFICIAL NOTE TO BE SENT FROM THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY TO OUR STATE DEPARTMENT WHICH WOULD FULLY SATISFY OUR REQUIREMENT THAT THE VESSEL BE COMPLETELY DEMILITARIZED AND BE UTILIZED FOR LOGISTIC SUPPORT AND SPARE PARTS ONLY. HOWEVER, TO IMPOSE A FURTHER REQUIREMENT WITH A TWELVE MONTHS DEADLINE THAT THEY ACTUALLY BREAK UP THE HULL IS NOT ONLY PERHAPS TECHNICALLY BEYOND THEIR CAPABILITY BUT WILL MAKE THEM HOPPING MAD.

4. MY RECOMMENDATION IS THAT NEXT WEEK I BE PERMITTED TO TRY TO NEGOTIATE THIS THING TACTFULLY WITH ADMIRAL SEIJAS AND ADMIRAL PEREZ LEEFMANS AND THAT I REPORT BACK TO YOU. MEANWHILE, I HOPE OUR NAVY CAN USE LESS PEREMPTORY LANGUAGE AND THAT SOMEHOW OR OTHER WE REDUCE THE PURCHASE PRICE TO A MORE REASONABLE AMOUNT, HAVING IN MIND THE VERY CONSIDERABLE EXPENSE OF THE TOW JOB FROM SAN DIEGO TO PUERTO CABELLO.  
MCCLINTOCK

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